

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 05279 102134Z  
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5217

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 5279

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PPDC, SHUM, UY  
SUBJ: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT MENDEZ TO PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: MONTEVIDEO 5262

1. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF  
THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT MENDEZ TO PRESIDENT  
CARTER THIS SPANISH TEXT OF WHICH WAS SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT  
IN REFTEL.

QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I SHARE YOUR FEELINGS, (WHICH ARE MUTUAL) WITH  
REGARD TO THE EXCHANGE OF POINTS OF VIEW WHICH WE HAD THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY OUT ON THE OCCASION YOU MENTIONED.

I SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR THE CORDIAL RECEPTION  
EXTENDED TO ME WHICH MADE MY STAY IN YOUR GREAT COUNTRY  
MOST PLEASANT.

I AGREE WITH YOUR OBSERVATION ON (THE) TRADITIONAL  
URUGUAYAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND WITH THE WISH FOR THEIR  
RE-ESTABLISHMENT UPON A FIRM BASE AND I SHARE YOUR WISHES  
WITH RESPECT TO THE INSTITUTIONAL NORMALIZATION OF  
MY COUNTRY CONSISTENT WITH OUR MOST CHERISHED AND  
IRREPLACEABLE TRADITIONS.

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I AM DEEPLY SORRY THAT THE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS IN URUGUAY MOMENTARILY BLOCK THE CONTINUITY OF  
PAST RELATIONS.

VARIED AND IDENTIFIABLE IINTERESTS HAVE CARRIED OUT  
AN INTERNTIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST MY COUNTRY WHICH, IN

ITS SCOPE AND INTENSITY, ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE DEFENSE WHICH THIS GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS AGAINST THE AGGRESSION TO WHICH ITS INSTITUTIONS, RIGHTS AND INHERENT FUNDAMENTAL LIBERTIES OF OUR LONG-ESTABLISHED WAY OF LIFE ARE SUBJECT.

I AM PLEASED THAT THE INTERNAL MEASURES WHICH MY GOVERNMENT HAS ADOPTED, AND WHICH IT WILL CONTINUE TO ADOPT IN THE FUTURE, IN THE UNWAVERING EXERCISE OF ITS SOVEREIGNTY IN DULY CLARIFYING THE MISINFORMATION AND CALUMNY ARE VIEWED WITH SYMPATHY BY THOSE WHOM WE CONSIDER OUR FRIENDS.

WITHOUT DELVING INTO THE MOOT POINT OF ANALYZING WHICH ARE THE MOST DESIRABLE WAYS OF PROTECTING THE WORLD IMAGE OF URUGUAY, I MUST STATE THAT THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MY COUNTRY IS ENDOWED WITH AN EFFICIENCY ORCOMPARABLE TO THAT OF THE MOST ADVANCED COUNTRIES.

FOR NUMEROUS REASONS, WHICH I HAD OCCASION TO EXPLAIN TO YOU PERSONALLY AND WHICH REMAIN COMPLETELY VALID, MY GOVERNMENT HAS UNSWERVINGLY FOLLOWED A COURSE, DETERMINED BY FIRST-HAND AND WELL-KNOWN EXPERIENCE, OF DISALLOWING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE OF ANY SORT IN SUCH SENSITIVE MATTERS BECAUSE (IT COMPROMISES) INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE COUNTRY.  
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AS FOR THE IAHRC, THIS GOVERNMENT HAS EXHAUSTED ALL (ITS) CLAIMS AND PROCEDURES, SUBSTANTIAL AND FORMAL, AND CONSIDERS THAT (THE COMMISSION'S) INTERVENTION IS DEFINITELY UNACCEPTABLE. THE POSITION(S) PREVIOUSLY OUTLINED BEFORE THAT ORGANISM BY THIS GOVERNMENT - I ENCLOSE A COPY OF THE REPORT - ARE SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR ON THIS POINT. (NOTE: REPORT REFERRED TO BEING AIR POUCHED TO NSC MR. PASTOR. SUMMARY CONTAINED MVD 5075.)

IN THIS REGARD I WANT TO BE PARTICULARLY CLEAR AND PRECISE: WE SUSPECT THE OPINIONS AND CONDUCT OF ALL OTHER

GOVERNMENTS, AND WE DEMAND THE SAME RESPECT FOR OUR OPINIONS AND CONDUCT IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THESE TWO POSITIONS MUST BE UNDERSTOOD BY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION AND, IN ANY CASE, IT SHOULD BE QUITE EVIDENT THAT A SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT, WHO VIUTS CLAELF AS SUCH, CANNOT FUNCTION IN REACTION TO PRESSURES AND INTERESTS OF THOSE WHO CREATED THE FALSE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE AND NOW PRETEND TO BE LABORING TO RESTORE IT.

I CONGENIALLY AWAIT YOUR REPLY WITH RESPECT TO SENDING

ANY PERSON OR GROUP (OF PERSONS) TO URUGUAY WITH THE REITERATED ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL BE GIVEN COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND THEY WILL BE ABLE TO TALK TO WHOMEVER THEY SO DESIRE.

AS FOR YOU, IT WAS A MOST PLEASANT HAPPENSTANCE THAT GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW YOU PERSONALLY AND TO CONVERSE WITH YOU IN THE RECENT VISIT I MADE -- AT YOUR GRACIOUS INVITATION -- TO YOUR GREAT COUNTRY. CORDIALLY, (SIGNED) APARICIO MENDEZ UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT: THE MENDEZ REPLY IS DEVOTED LARGELY TO A REITERATION OF OLD, FAMILIAR GOU THESES, E.G. THE URUGUAYAN HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IS ONE OF MISUNDERSTANDING  
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AND MISINFORMATION, URUGUAY IS THE VICTIM OF AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN OF CALUMNY, ETC. THIS IS UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE MENDEZ MIGHT HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THIS RARE WRITTEN EXCHANGE TO ENGAGE IN A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE PRESIDENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS. INSTEAD OF BEING SO DEFENSIVE MENDEZ COULD HAVE TAKEN CREDIT FOR SOME GOU FORWARD MOVEMENT SUCH AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE OF INFORMATION, WHICH IS RESPONDING TO EMBASSY INQUIRIES, AND THE PROPOSAL TO GRANT THE PRESIDENT PARDON AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1978, WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF STATE. DESPITE THESE SHORTCOMINGS, MENDEZ' REITERATION OF HIS INVITATION TO THE PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT ANY PERSON OR GROUP AND TO GIVE THEM COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND LET THEM TALK WITH WHOMEVER THEY MAY DESIRE IS ONE ASPECT OF HIS REPLY THAT IS POSITIVE AND SIGNIFICANT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PPDC, SHUM, UY, (CARTER, JIMMY), (MENDEZ MANFREDINI, APARICIO)  
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